

Water Quality Consumer Confidence Report

For samples collected during 2013 in the Martis Valley Water System

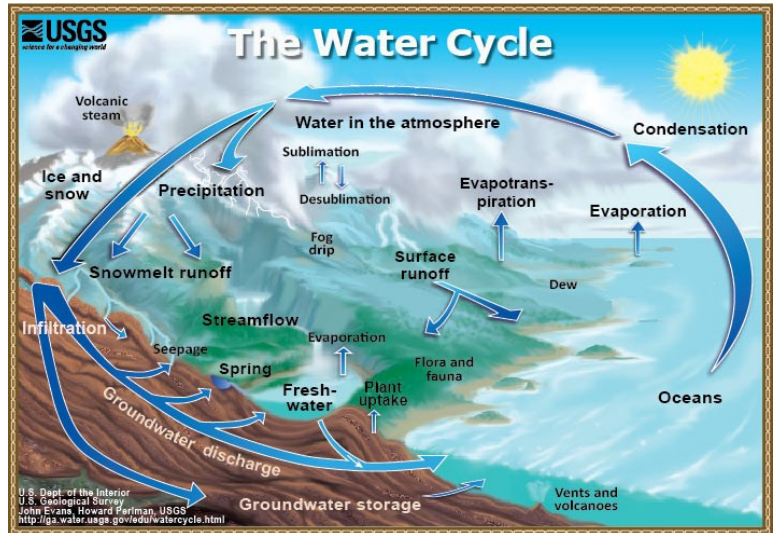
Placer County Water Agency is pleased to report this year - as we have each and every year since 1991 - that the drinking water supplied to you meets or exceeds state and federal public health standards for drinking water quality and safety. California water retailers, including PCWA, are required by law to inform customers about the quality of their drinking water. The results of PCWA's testing and monitoring programs of 2013 are reported in this newsletter. If you have any questions about this report, please contact the PCWA Customer Services Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.

Ensuring The Safety of Your Drinking Water

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. State regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health.

About Your Drinking Water

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's **Safe Drinking Water Hotline: 1-800-426-4791**

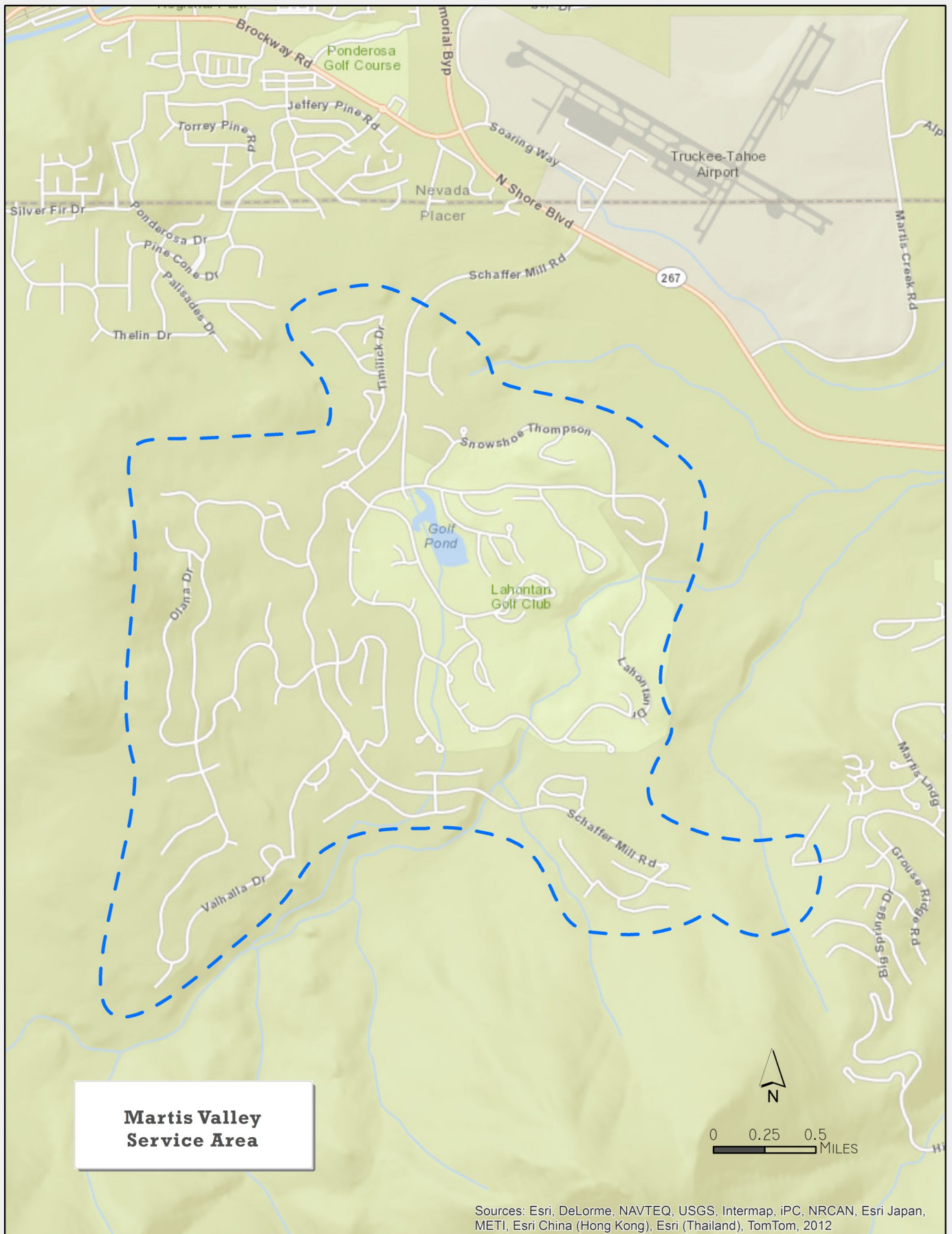


The Source of Your Water Supply

Water for the PCWA Martis Valley service area in eastern Placer County is pumped from the Martis Valley aquifer. Groundwater is drawn from three wells, varying from approximately 500 to 900 feet in depth, located adjacent to Lahontan Drive and Schaffer Mill Road. Water is distributed to customers via pipeline.

Note to At-Risk Water Users

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. USEPA/ Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.



Martis Valley Water Quality Results

Primary Drinking Water Standards

CONSTITUENT	No. of Samples Collected	90th Percentile Level Detected	No. of Sites Exceeding AL	AL	PHG	Typical Source of Contaminant
Copper (mg/L)	10	0.15	0	1.3	0.3	Internal corrosion of household plumbing systems

CONSTITUENT	UNITS	MCL or [MRDL]	PHG, (MCLG) or [MRDLG]	PCWA Range and Average or (HRAA)	Typical Source of Contaminant
Chlorine	mg/L	[4]	[4]	0-1.2 (0.62)	Drinking water disinfectant added for treatment
Aluminum	ug/L	1000	600	0-100 20	Erosion of natural deposits
Arsenic	ug/L	10	0.004	2.2-3.1 2.55	Erosion of natural deposits
Nickel	ug/L	100	12	0-23 5.75	Erosion of natural deposits

Secondary Drinking Water Standards

Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	1,000	None	120-120 120	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Specific Conductance	uS/cm	1,600	None	160-190 183.75	Substances that form ions when in water
Chloride	mg/L	500	None	1.1-1.4 1.25	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Sulfate	mg/L	500	None	0.51-1.1 0.72	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Odor	units	3	None	1-1 1	Naturally occurring organic materials

Monitoring of Unregulated Substances

Sodium	mg/L	None	None	4.7-7.4 5.9	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Hardness	mg/L	None	None	79-97 90.75	Runoff / leaching from natural deposits
Radon 222 ¹	pCi/L	None	None	930-1600 1198	Erosion of natural deposits

¹Radon samples were last collected in 2001. There is no current requirement to monitor for radon in drinking water. Further information is provided in this report.

DEFINITIONS: Understanding Your Water Quality Report

MCL: Maximum Contaminant Level. The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCL's are set as close to the PHG's (or MCLG's) as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCL's are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG: Maximum Contaminant Level Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

MRDL: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level. The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG: Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLG's do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Primary Drinking Water Standard. MCL's and MRDL's for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirements.

PHG: Public Health Goal. The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. PHG's are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

AL: Action Level. The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Units. A measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of water quality. High turbidity can hinder the effectiveness of disinfectants.

TT: Treatment Technique. A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

pCi/L: picocuries per liter. A measure of radiation.

mg/L: milligrams per liter or parts per million (ppm)

ug/L: micrograms per liter or parts per billion (ppb)

uS/cm: MicroSiemens per centimeter

HRAA: Highest Running Annual Average

<: Less Than

ND: ND or Non-Detected: An analysis result below detectable levels.

NA: Non-Applicable

Environmental Influences on Drinking Water

The sources of drinking water (both tap and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salt and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, agricultural application and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, that can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Statement on Lead

(none found in this system)

Infants, young children, and pregnant women are typically more vulnerable to lead in drinking water than the general population. It is possible that lead levels at your home may be higher than at other homes in the community as a result of the materials used in your home's plumbing. If your water faucet has not been used for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing the faucet for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about elevated lead levels in your home's water, you may wish to have your water tested. Additional information is available from the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Plumbing Freeze in Winter

PCWA is reminding customers to take a few simple steps during winter to keep your water lines from freezing. Frozen pipes can cause damage to your property and cause a major inconvenience. They can also be expensive to repair. Most frozen lines occur on private property and are the responsibility of the homeowner. Tips on winterizing your home can be found here:

http://www.weather.com/activities/homeandgarden/home/hometips/severeweather/pipefreeze_prevent.html

Away much?

PCWA is aware that many homes in the Martis Valley area are vacation homes. If you are away from your home often or for extended periods of time for any reason, we'd like to remind you that it is a good idea to thoroughly flush all of your faucets upon return. Try to flush enough water to where you are sure you're getting fresh water from the main. It is also a good idea to pay attention to the freeze warning above.

About Your Water Supply

Note on Radon

Radon is a radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste. It is found throughout the U.S. Radon can move up through the ground and into a home through cracks and holes in the foundation. Radon can build up to high levels in all types of homes. Radon can also get into indoor air when released from tap water from showering, washing dishes, and other household activities. Compared to radon entering a home through soil, radon entering through tap water will in most cases be a small source of radon in indoor air. Radon is a known human carcinogen. Breathing air containing radon can lead to lung cancer. Drinking water containing radon may also cause increased risk of stomach cancer. If you are concerned about radon in your home, test the air. Testing is inexpensive and easy. Fix your home if the level of radon is 4 pCi/L or higher. There are simple ways to fix a radon problem that aren't too costly.

For additional information, call your State radon program (800-745-7236), the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Hotline (800-426-4791) or the National Safe Council Radon Hotline (1-800-SOS-RADON).

2013 Testing Results

Measurements reported here were collected in 2013 (unless otherwise noted). In accordance with federal regulations, data is from the most recent tests. We are allowed to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently.

Frequently Asked Questions About Water Quality

It is important for you to know that we take our customers' concerns very seriously. We feel that you wouldn't be calling if there weren't cause for concern, so we investigate every claim fully and in a timely manner before closing a case. Below are some answers to the most common questions or concerns. You may find that this information solves your issue, but please feel free to call the numbers listed below if you feel it does not. FOR INFORMATION on water quality or questions about this report, PCWA customers are invited to contact the PCWA Customer Service Center at (530) 823-4850 or (800) 464-0030.

Do we have hard water?

At an average of 90.75 mg/L (milligrams per liter) PCWA water is moderately hard water. General guidelines for classification of waters are: 0 to 60 mg/L as calcium carbonate is classified as soft; 61 to 120 mg/L as moderately hard; 121 to 180 mg/L as hard; and more than 180 mg/L as very hard.

Is there Fluoride in my water?

PCWA does not fluoridate its water. There is a very small portion of the City of Rocklin, which receives water from the City of Roseville during high demand in warm months only. In addition, our Bianchi system receives Roseville water at all times. Roseville is required to fluoridate its water. To find maps of these areas, you can go to: <http://www.pcwa.net/water-resources/water-quality.html>

My water smells like Chlorine!

Chlorine is required in the distribution system to keep bacteria from making it to your tap. We regulate our Chlorine dosage very strictly so that we have just enough without having too much. The maximum residual level for Chlorine is 4 mg/L (milligrams per liter), and a common level for our systems is between 0.5 and 1.5 mg/L. Some people are more sensitive to the smell of Chlorine in water. It is common for people to think that the level of the Chlorine must be too high under these circumstances; however, we've found that the most common reason for smelling Chlorine at your tap is when the Chlorine is dissipating or the level is dropping. The reason for this is that the water sits in your plumbing before you use it. Most likely, if you flush your taps out, the smell will disappear.

Why is my tap water milky or cloudy?

This is caused by tiny air bubbles in the water. It is completely harmless. Cold water from snowmelt has the potential to hold lots of air. As the water warms a bit on its way to your tap, it has more potential to release



that air. When you turn on your tap, the rapid reduction in pressure causes the air to come out of solution, and creates the milky look you see. If this is the case, it will clear before your eyes as in the picture.

How do I know my water is safe?

Distribution operators and treatment plant operators certified by the California Department of Public Health collect hundreds of bacteriological samples each year throughout the water distribution systems as well as performing thousands of individual tests in the treatment facilities and in the distribution system, of which only the detected constituents are found in your annual Consumer Confidence Report. Field tests for things like temperature, turbidity, pH and chlorine residual help to let us know that our water is maintaining its quality throughout the distribution system.



Frequently Asked Questions About Water Quality

Continued...

My water is dirty!

It is actually very common for people to experience discolored or “dirty” water at their tap. In most cases, we can trace this condition to a particular aspect of the household plumbing. It is very common for a water heater to corrode or



rust and cause discolored water in the hot water. You can test this by turning your tap to the full hot position and observe whether the water is discolored. If the water is discolored in your hot water, but not cold, you can be reasonably certain the issue lies in your water heater. If the problem occurs in



the cold water as well, and doesn't clear up after running for a few minutes, we may need to flush the main line. If you get discolored water out of your cold water tap and it clears up after running for

several minutes, the main line is likely clean and you may have a plumbing fixture or an old galvanized line causing the problem.

Why are there pink or dark stains in my toilet or around my drains?

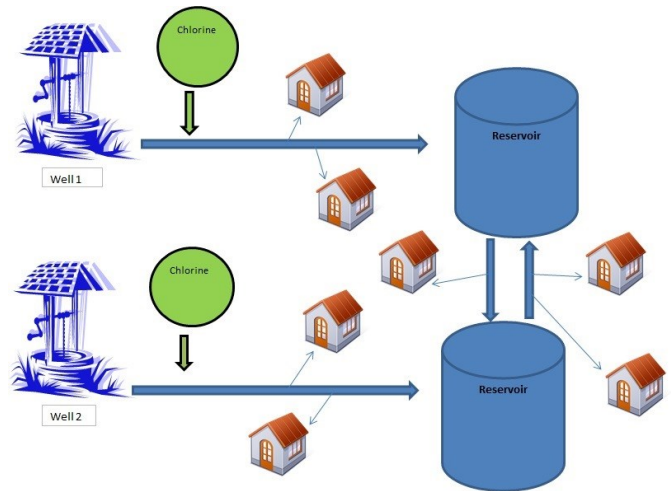
Airborne organisms are usually the cause. You will see grey, black, or sometimes pink filmy stains on surfaces that are regularly moist, including toilet bowls, shower heads, shower drains, sink drains, dishwashers, shower and bath floors and



walls. These organisms are not in the drinking water, but they find moist areas of your house to thrive. The only way to control these organisms is to disinfect the surfaces regularly, and ventilate the area well.

How is my water treated?

Your water is pumped from the ground and preventatively disinfected prior to entering the distribution system. The facility or facilities serving your area are operated by California Department of Public Health certified operators. It may also be comforting for you to know that our facilities have built-in fail-safes which will immediately shut the pumping and disinfection process down and not allow any water to the system if something within the facility is not operating correctly. The operators receive alarms for immediate intervention so they can begin pumping water again.



My water tastes like chemicals!

Another common call we get is that the water has a strong chemical taste all of a sudden. Most times, this can be traced to the either the Chlorine topic covered earlier, or to a hose bib being left on. This is most common during warm times of year when the hot sun beats down on a pressurized hose and creates backpressure. When you open a tap inside the house, you can be sure that high pressure hose water feeds right into your house, and it doesn't taste good. The best way to avoid this is to always shut your hose off at the



hose bib shut-off valve, and depressurize your hose. For this reason, it is not a good idea to have your hose bib set up as it is in the picture.